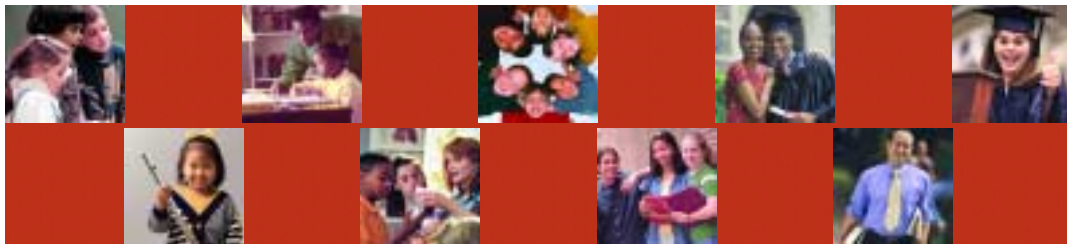


the condition of education 2003



INDICATOR 33

Degrees and Fields of Study

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2003*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2003*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003067>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education 2003*, NCES 2003-067, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2003.

Programs and Courses

Degrees and Fields of Study

Between 1990–91 and 2000–01, the number of associate's degrees awarded increased at a faster rate than the number of bachelor's degrees.

The number of associate's degrees awarded between 1990–91 and 2000–01 increased by 20 percent, from 482,000 to 579,000. In contrast, the number of bachelor's degrees awarded grew by 14 percent, from 1,095,000 to 1,244,000. The number of associate's degrees awarded increased more during the first half of the time period than the second half (15 vs. 4 percent), while the number of bachelor's degrees awarded increased by 6 to 7 percent in both 5-year periods (see supplemental tables 33-1, 33-2, and 33-3).

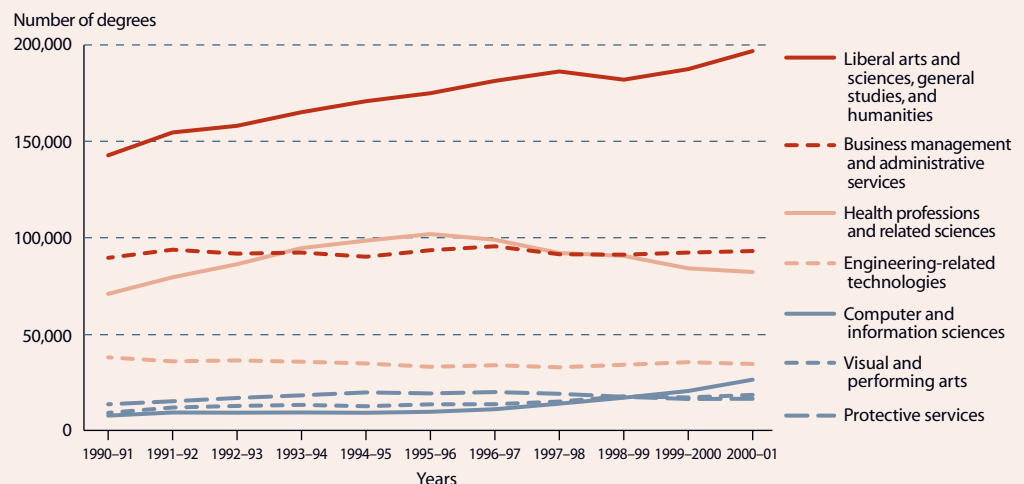
Each year between 1990–91 and 2000–01, more associate's degrees were awarded in liberal arts/sciences, general studies, and humanities than in any other field. Associate's degrees in these fields increased in both the number awarded (by 38 percent) and in the share of the total (from 30 to 34 percent). Business management/administrative services and health professions/related sciences were the next largest fields in 2000–01, accounting for 16 and 14 percent, respectively, of all associate's degrees. While the number of associate's degrees awarded in business remained relatively stable between 1990–91 and 2000–01, the number of degrees awarded in health grew until the mid-1990s

and then started to decline. The number of associate's degrees awarded in engineering-related technologies declined from 1990–91 to 2000–01. Computer/information sciences grew rapidly in the second half of the time period (with the number of degrees increasing by 173 percent). Associate's degrees in visual/performing arts and protective services increased from 1990–91 to 2000–01, but each field accounted for only 3 percent of all associate's degrees awarded in 2000–01 (see supplemental table 33-2).

At the bachelor's degree level, the number of degrees awarded in the three largest fields reveal different patterns. In business, the number of degrees awarded decreased between 1990–91 and 1995–96 (by 9 percent) but then increased between 1995–96 and 2000–01 (by 17 percent). The number of bachelor's degrees awarded in social sciences/history remained relatively stable, increasing by 1 percent in both time periods. In education, the number of degrees awarded decreased between 1990–91 and 1995–96 (by 5 percent) but then remained stable between 1995–96 and 2000–01 (see supplemental table 33-3).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2003). *Digest of Education Statistics 2002* (NCES 2003–060), table 250. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Completions Survey" (IPEDS-C:90–01), 1990–91 through 2000–01.

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES: Number of associate's degrees conferred by Title IV degree-granting institutions, by field of study: 1990–91 through 2000–01



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 3, 8
Supplemental Tables 33-1,
33-2, 33-3

Degrees and Fields of Study

Table 33-1. Number of associate's degrees conferred by Title IV degree-granting institutions, by field of study: 1990–91 through 2000–01

[Associate's degrees conferred rounded to hundreds]						
Field of study	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
Total¹	481,700	504,200	514,800	530,600	539,700	555,200
Liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	142,700	154,600	158,000	165,100	170,800	175,000
Business management and administrative services	89,500	93,800	91,700	92,300	90,100	93,500
Health professions and related sciences	70,800	79,500	86,200	94,600	98,500	101,900
Engineering-related technologies	37,900	35,900	36,300	35,600	34,700	33,000
Computer and information sciences	7,700	9,300	9,200	9,300	9,200	9,700
Visual and performing arts	9,100	11,900	12,700	13,200	12,500	13,500
Protective services	13,600	15,100	16,800	18,200	19,700	19,200
Field of study	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	
Total¹	571,200	558,600	560,000	564,900	578,900	
Liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	181,300	186,200	182,000	187,500	196,800	
Business management and administrative services	95,500	91,400	91,200	92,300	93,100	
Health professions and related sciences	98,900	92,000	90,600	84,100	82,200	
Engineering-related technologies	33,800	32,700	34,000	35,400	34,500	
Computer and information sciences	11,000	13,900	17,000	20,500	26,300	
Visual and performing arts	13,600	15,000	17,600	17,100	18,400	
Protective services	19,900	19,000	17,400	16,300	16,400	

¹Total includes other fields not shown.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2003). *Digest of Education Statistics 2002* (NCES 2003–060), table 250. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Completions Surveys" (IPEDS-C:90–01), 1990–91 through 2000–01.

Degrees and Fields of Study

Table 33-2. Number of associate's degrees conferred by Title IV degree-granting institutions, percentage of total, and percentage change, by field of study: 1990–91, 1995–96, and 2000–01

Field of study	[Associate's degrees conferred rounded to hundreds]								Percent change 1990–91 to 2000–01
	1990–91		1995–96		Percent change 1990–91 to 1995–96	2000–01		Percent change 1995–96 to 2000–01	
	Number of degrees	Percent of total	Number of degrees	Percent of total		Number of degrees	Percent of total		
Total¹	481,700	100.0	555,200	100.0	15.3	578,900	100.0	4.3	20.2
Liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	142,700	29.6	175,000	31.5	22.6	196,800	34.0	12.5	37.9
Business management and administrative services	89,500	18.6	93,500	16.8	4.4	93,100	16.1	-0.4	3.9
Health professions and related sciences	70,800	14.7	101,900	18.3	43.8	82,200	14.2	-19.3	16.0
Engineering-related technologies	37,900	7.9	33,000	5.9	-12.9	34,500	6.0	4.4	-9.0
Computer and information sciences	7,700	1.6	9,700	1.7	25.8	26,300	4.6	172.7	243.1
Visual and performing arts	9,100	1.9	13,500	2.4	48.3	18,400	3.2	36.2	102.0
Protective services	13,600	2.8	19,200	3.5	41.5	16,400	2.8	-14.4	21.1
Mechanics and repairers	7,600	1.6	12,500	2.3	63.9	12,700	2.2	1.0	65.6
Precision production trades	9,100	1.9	10,200	1.8	12.4	11,500	2.0	12.5	26.4
Multi/interdisciplinary studies	7,500	1.5	8,600	1.6	15.5	10,400	1.8	21.2	40.0
Consumer and personal services	2,500	0.5	7,700	1.4	209.6	10,400	1.8	35.1	318.2
Education	7,800	1.6	9,800	1.8	24.3	9,200	1.6	-5.4	17.6
Home economics and vocational home economics	8,100	1.7	8,200	1.5	1.5	8,600	1.5	5.3	7.0
Law and legal studies	5,500	1.1	9,100	1.6	66.0	6,900	1.2	-24.7	25.0
Agriculture and natural resources	4,900	1.0	6,200	1.1	25.9	6,600	1.1	7.6	35.4
Marketing operations/marketing and distribution	12,700	2.6	6,000	1.1	-53.1	5,300	0.9	-10.8	-58.2
Social sciences and history	2,500	0.5	4,000	0.7	60.5	5,100	0.9	27.6	104.9
Public administration and services	2,800	0.6	4,200	0.8	51.8	3,300	0.6	-21.0	19.9
Communications	1,800	0.4	2,200	0.4	18.4	2,900	0.5	34.8	59.7
Construction trades	1,800	0.4	2,100	0.4	19.4	2,700	0.5	25.3	49.6
Physical sciences and science technologies	2,100	0.4	2,600	0.5	24.9	2,300	0.4	-10.5	11.8
Communications technologies	2,000	0.4	1,800	0.3	-13.5	2,000	0.3	12.9	-2.4
Engineering	2,500	0.5	2,200	0.4	-10.4	1,800	0.3	-16.9	-25.5
Psychology	1,000	0.2	1,600	0.3	58.8	1,600	0.3	-1.8	55.9
Biological/life sciences	1,100	0.2	2,000	0.4	82.0	1,400	0.2	-29.1	29.0
Transportation and material moving workers	2,600	0.5	1,600	0.3	-39.8	1,100	0.2	-32.0	-59.1
English language and literature/letters	400	0.1	1,300	0.2	207.5	900	0.2	-33.1	105.9
Parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies	400	0.1	900	0.2	120.2	800	0.1	-10.1	97.9
Mathematics	700	0.1	800	0.1	13.1	700	0.1	-8.3	3.7
Theological studies/religious vocations	600	0.1	600	0.1	5.2	600	0.1	-5.3	-0.3
Foreign languages and literatures	300	0.1	600	0.1	85.6	500	0.1	-12.9	61.8
Not classified by field of study	19,700	4.1	1,600	0.3	-91.9	600	0.1	-63.3	-97.0

¹Fields in which fewer than 500 degrees were awarded in 2000–01 are not shown separately but are included in the total. These fields include architecture and related programs; area, ethnic, and cultural studies; R.O.T.C. and military technologies; library science; and philosophy and religion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2003). *Digest of Education Statistics 2002* (NCES 2003–060), table 250. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Completions Survey" (IPEDS-C:90–01), 1990–91, 1995–96, and 2000–01.

Degrees and Fields of Study

Table 33-3. Number of bachelor's degrees conferred by Title IV degree-granting institutions, percentage of total, and percentage change, by field of study: 1990–91, 1995–96, and 2000–01

Field of study	[Bachelor's degrees conferred rounded to hundreds]								
	1990–91		1995–96		Percent change 1990–91 to 1995–96	2000–01		Percent change 1995–96 to 2000–01	Percent change 1990–91 to 2000–01
	Number of degrees	Percent of total	Number of degrees	Percent of total		Number of degrees	Percent of total		
Total ¹	1,094,500	100.0	1,164,800	100.0	6.4	1,244,200	100.0	6.8	13.7
Business ²	249,300	22.8	227,100	19.5	-8.9	265,700	21.4	17.0	6.6
Social sciences and history	125,100	11.4	126,500	10.9	1.1	128,000	10.3	1.2	2.3
Education	110,800	10.1	105,500	9.1	-4.8	105,600	8.5	0.1	-4.7
Psychology	58,700	5.4	73,300	6.3	25.0	73,500	5.9	0.3	25.4
Health professions and related sciences	59,100	5.4	84,000	7.2	42.3	73,500	5.9	-12.5	24.4
Visual and performing arts	42,200	3.9	49,300	4.2	16.9	61,100	4.9	24.0	44.9
Biological/life sciences	39,500	3.6	61,000	5.2	54.3	60,600	4.9	-0.7	53.2
Engineering	61,500	5.6	62,100	5.3	0.9	58,100	4.7	-6.5	-5.6
Communications	51,700	4.7	47,300	4.1	-8.4	58,000	4.7	22.6	12.3
English language and literature/letters	51,800	4.7	50,700	4.4	-2.2	51,400	4.1	1.4	-0.8
Computer and information sciences	25,100	2.3	24,100	2.1	-3.9	42,000	3.4	74.1	67.3
Liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities	30,500	2.8	34,000	2.9	11.4	38,000	3.1	11.7	24.4
Multi/interdisciplinary studies	17,600	1.6	26,500	2.3	51.0	26,000	2.1	-1.9	48.0
Protective services	16,800	1.5	24,800	2.1	47.6	25,200	2.0	1.6	50.0
Agriculture and natural resources	13,100	1.2	21,400	1.8	63.3	23,400	1.9	9.1	78.2
Parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies	4,300	0.4	14,000	1.2	224.1	19,600	1.6	39.9	353.4
Public administration and services	14,400	1.3	19,800	1.7	38.3	19,400	1.6	-2.0	35.5
Physical sciences and science technologies	16,300	1.5	19,600	1.7	20.2	18,000	1.4	-8.5	10.0
Home economics and vocational home economics	14,900	1.4	15,800	1.4	6.1	17,800	1.4	12.5	19.4
Foreign languages and literatures	13,100	1.2	14,000	1.2	6.2	15,100	1.2	8.6	15.3
Engineering-related technologies ³	17,100	1.6	15,300	1.3	-10.5	14,200	1.1	-7.4	-17.1
Mathematics	15,300	1.4	13,100	1.1	-14.2	11,700	0.9	-11.2	-23.7
Philosophy and religion	7,300	0.7	7,400	0.6	1.0	8,600	0.7	15.9	17.0
Architecture and related programs	9,800	0.9	8,400	0.7	-14.6	8,500	0.7	1.5	-13.3
Theological studies/religious vocations	4,800	0.4	5,400	0.5	11.3	7,000	0.6	30.0	44.8
Area, ethnic, and cultural studies	4,900	0.4	5,800	0.5	18.5	6,300	0.5	9.2	29.3
Transportation and material moving workers	2,600	0.2	3,600	0.3	35.8	3,700	0.3	5.3	42.9
Law and legal studies	1,800	0.2	2,100	0.2	16.7	2,000	0.2	-4.6	11.4
Communications technologies	1,100	0.1	700	0.1	-39.2	1,100	0.1	53.7	-6.5
Not classified by field of study	13,300	1.2	1,800	0.2	-86.8	800	0.1	-55.4	-94.1

¹Fields in which fewer than 500 degrees were awarded in 2000–01 are not shown separately but are included in the total. These fields include precision production trades, library science, and R.O.T.C. and military technologies.

²Business includes business management and administrative services, marketing operations/marketing and distribution, and consumer and personal services.

³Engineering-related technologies includes engineering-related technologies, mechanics and repairers, and construction trades.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2003). *Digest of Education Statistics 2002* (NCES 2003–060), table 252. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Completions Survey" (IPEDS-C:90–01), 1990–91, 1995–96, and 2000–01.